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work before me than in the words which its author applies to Mill, as "eminently free, fair, and candid."

JAMES GIBSON.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

A COMPANION TO PLATO'S REPUBLIC. By Bernard Bosanquet. London: Rivington, Percival & Co., 1895.

In his Preface, Mr. Bosanquet tells us that the idea of writing this volume was suggested to him by Mr. Walter Leaf's "Companion to the Iliad." The commentary is intended for English readers, and primarily for University Extension students, and it is based accordingly upon Davies and Vaughan's translation, not upon the Greek text. It is surprising to find that the class of students Mr. Bosanquet has in view take so much interest in Plato; but it is not unnatural after all, and it is certainly gratifying to all who believe that Greek philosophy is still a living power.

It must not be supposed, however, that this is merely a popular handbook of the common type. The Platonic student who can learn nothing from this little book is either to be envied or pitied. And the book is a model of style. Mr. Bosanquet's careful diction, which makes his writing so difficult to some and so luminous to others, stands him in good stead as an interpreter. Plato is himself the master of this style, and he often seems to be saying nothing in particular when he is really making a great revolution in philosophy.

It is impossible to say anything worth saying about an ancient philosopher without reference to the times in which he lived. Philosophy makes profession of detachment from its surroundings: but, just for that reason, we must know the surroundings from which it is detached. Mr. Bosanquet's interpretation of Plato has plenty of background, and many of his remarks throw fresh light on the Athens of Plato's time. Take this on the fourth century B.C. The word decadence "only applies to it in that liberal spirit in which speculation marks a decadence compared with action, or saintliness compared with citizenship" (p. 2). Or this on the Sophists: "To ask a fee for such teaching was, therefore, to a Greek gentleman, much what it would be to-day for a man to require payment for his talk at a party." Or again: "Plato seems to have lived at the right moment to seize the connection between the magic of savagery and the sacerdotalism of civilized society" (p. 76). The book is full of such suggestive sentences as these.

Every one will wish to know Mr. Bosanquet's view of the "Theory of Ideas." Those who look for a convenient formula in which to sum it up and pack it away with other philosophic lumber of the like sort will be disappointed. Mr. Bosanquet has been content with trying to explain to us what Plato really meant to say. But the drift of his interpretation may be gathered from such sentences as these: "The sharp separation between one and another use of the word 'form' or 'idea' is wholly artificial" (p. 80). "To isolate all texts which seem to have a mythical sense, and say that Plato's doctrine must be determined by them alone, is a mutilation of the data by which the hypothesis should be tested" (p. 141). "It is all-important to read Plato's text as simply and correctly as possible, interpreting it in the first instance by the primary requirements of philosophical thought, and dismissing from our minds the conceptions which have been derived from Aristotle's account of the doctrine, from clearly mythical passages in Plato himself (as in the myth of the 'Phædrus'), and from vague echoes of Kantian 'things-in-themselves'" (p. 206). Most significant of all, perhaps, is the reference to "the materialized image of, so to speak, a common-sense earth and a philosophic heaven, which disfigures the whole current interpretation of Plato" (p. 217).

Every student of Plato will differ from Mr. Bosanquet here and there, but all must admit that his work is one of the most valuable contributions to the subject that has been made for a long time.

JOHN BURNET.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND.

NEW BOOKS.

THE FEMALE OFFENDER. By Professor Cæsar Lombroso and William Ferrero. With an Introduction by W. Douglas Morrison. Illustrated. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1895.

PUNISHMENT AND REFORMATION: An Historical Sketch of the Rise of the Penitentiary System. By Frederick Howard Wines, LL.D. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1895.

NATURE VERSUS NATURAL SELECTION: An Essay on Organic Evolution. By Charles Clement Coe. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1895.

THE SEXES COMPARED, and other Essays. By Edward von Hartmann. Selected and Translated by A. Kenner, M.A. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895.